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Friends of Dacus Library Newsletter

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Fall 2014

# Fall 2014

Friends of Dacus Library

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# Friends of Dacus Library Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 2

Fall 2014

## Kim Wright Entertains & Informs Friends of Dacus Library, Oct. 6

More than fifty persons gathered in Tuttle Dining Room, McBryde Hall, on October 6 for the annual Friends of Dacus Library Dinner. They were entertained by Charlotte author **Kim Wright**, who spoke on "Second Chances: How Characters (and Readers) Can Reinvent Themselves at Midlife." Dr. **Jane White** presided over the event and **Kay McSpadden**, local teacher and *Charlotte Observer* columnist, introduced the speaker.

Wright noted that several years ago she turned 52, an age that carried some special significance because "there are 52 weeks in a year, 52 cards in a deck, etc." This was a trying time of divorce when she turned from non-fiction to fiction and produced her first novel, *Love in Mid Air*. She recognized that characters in her fiction are drawn from parts of real life and "the sausage grinder of my mind."

Kelly was the friend of the protagonist of her first novel, but Wright felt Kelly needed to tell her own story. That led to Wright's second novel, *The Unexpected Waltz*, taking off from the author's own interest in ballroom dancing. This dancing experience brings Kelly back and leads to her reinvention, after the tragic death of her husband. Kelly comes to realize that she had planned for youth and old age, but had no plan for the years between.

Wright also related how the idea for her soon-to-be published next book came to her at a meeting with her publisher and editor in New York City. That book is the story of a group of women who set

out on a trail from London to Canterbury, discussing love and life, in a modern retelling of the work of Geoffrey Chaucer.

Wright noted that she had changed her approach to reading as a result of her years of writing. She considers her analytic style of reading one of the drawbacks of being a writer. She also noted that she did not write for an audience, but rather wrote for herself. She said the reader was in effect "eavesdropping on the writer."

After her presentation, Wright took a few questions from the audience. One person asked about the age of Wright's typical reader. While the characters in Wright's fiction are "baby boomers" and she considers herself "the ultimate baby boomer," the author has found that most of her readers are senior adults of her mother's age. She has especially discovered this through her frequent talks to book clubs.

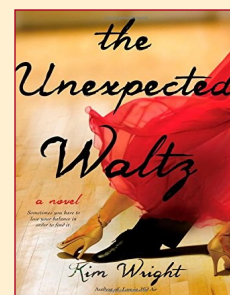
Wright indicated that when her kids were growing up is when she got the idea to produce a book on *Walt Disney World With Kids*. She has edited and re-edited that book for twenty-six years and now co-authors it with her own daughter. For much of her writing career, she observed, that book had been her "bread and butter." The author signed copies of her latest book at the end of her informative program.

Other activities that took place at the

**Continued as Kim Wright on p. 2...**



**Author Kim Wright**



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**ENTRANCE TO  
TUTTLE DINING ROOM**



**AUTHOR KIM WRIGHT  
AUTOGRAHS HER  
BOOK**

**EVENT SHOT BELOW**



## **...Kim Wright, Continued from page 1**

meeting were: The presentation of Life Memberships to Dr. Jane White and her husband Bill was made by Dacus Dean **Mark Herring**. After that Dr. **Ronnie Faulkner**, secretary-treasurer of the Friends, called for a vote on the following officers and board members, who were elected unanimously:

Dr. **Jane White** as Chair, Mrs. **Janet Gray** as Vice Chair, and the following as new Board Members: Ms. **Michelle Chase**, Dr. **Kelly Costner**, and Dr. **Terry Norton**.

Dr. Faulkner then gave a report noting that membership in the organization had reached 88 and that the Friends had assets of close to **\$9,000** in its regular account and **\$55,700** in the Friends Endowed Fund. He reviewed the successful programs of the last year, where the group expended approximately **\$3,700**. He then encouraged members to rejoin for 2015, especially stressing that persons could designate money toward the endowment, which has a Board established goal of **\$100,000**.

Dean Herring gave a brief report on the library, noting the employment of two new librarians: **Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard** and **DeAnn Brames**. He also mentioned the planned development of an institutional repository through the utilization of BePress's Digital Commons.

## **Kickoff Reception in Archives Launches a Week of Racial Integration Commemoration**

**Before the Friends Meeting on Octo-**

ber 6, the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections held a 4 to 6 p.m. historical exhibit and reception to launch a week of activities related to the 50th anniversary of the racial integration of Winthrop. The Friends of Dacus Library, along with the Office of the President and the 50th Anniversary Coordinating Committee, was a sponsor of this notable event.

There were exhibits related to the first African-American women to attend Winthrop in 1964, including Rock Hill native **Cynthia Plair Roddey '67**, who enrolled at Winthrop to pursue a library science degree. **Delores Johnson Hurt '68** of Columbia was the first undergraduate student on the Winthrop campus. She majored in French. Rock Hill native **Arnetta Gladden Mackey '67**, now deceased, soon followed Delores Johnson, and the two lived together on campus. Mackey majored in biology. **Sue Frances Meriwether Steed '67**, also a biology major, transferred to Winthrop from Tennessee Agricultural & Industrial State University (now Tennessee State University), and later became the first of the group to earn a Winthrop degree.

There was also an exhibit recognizing the first African-American staff members at the Dacus Library: **Ellen Owens** and **Dorothy Barber** (pictured below), both of whom joined the library staff in 1970. The two of them took part in a Lunch and Learn program entitled "Speak of the Times: A Conversations With Winthrop's Firsts" at Tuttle Dining Room on October 9.







## Giving Thanks ... Dean Herring

When now Rogero and the stranger knight,  
Clear of the city-gates, the champaigne reach,  
The youth repays, with praises infinite,  
Rogero in kind mode and cunning speech,  
Who him, although unknown, had sought to right,  
At risk of life, and prays his name to teach  
That he may know to whom his thanks he owed  
For such a mighty benefit bestowed.  
—Ludovico Ariosto

*Orlando furioso* (literally the mad Orlando) is an extraordinary poem that is extraordinarily long. The Italian poet, Ariosto, is not so well known today, but his 16th Century work reached well beyond those years to everyone from Dante to Shakespeare. I'd like to say that I know it well and understand it fully but I do not. I have read it, and read in it many times. But it is such a magical piece with so many twists and turns that it is impossible to grasp in its entirety, or, at least for me it is. Still, it is great fun.

The whole poem is a riot of wildness. Its main character, Orlando, goes mad with love, wrecks the continent in Charlemagne's name, until at last, Astolfo, a knight, is able to ride to the heavens to return Orlando's wits via a hippogriff (see, I told you it was great fun!).

In the headpiece from Canto 25, Rogero (or Ruggiero) is trying to avoid all sorts of maledictions and sorceries from his foster father, a wizard, avoiding the magic of one, Alcina, all while making his way to his love, Bradamante. It turns out to be a case of mistaken identity here, which Rogero soon learns to his dismay. Love is again a kind of madness that if one gets right

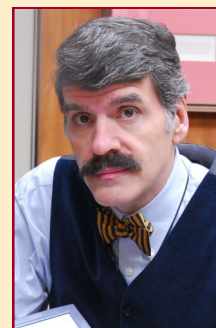
makes all the difference in the world, but if one gets wrong can very well undo the world while also making it a hell on earth.

The poem's themes are many: honor, faith, thanks, and love (and, of course, mayhem, jealousy, and so on). It being Thanksgiving, the theme of thanks came to mind. Orlando, Rogero and the rest learn a great deal but learn it the hard way, as do many of the other cast of thousands in this magnificent poem.

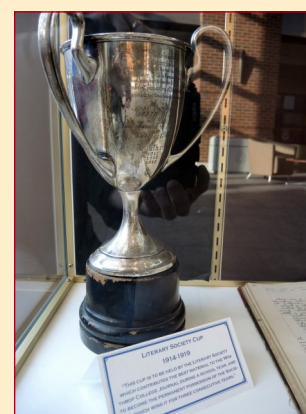
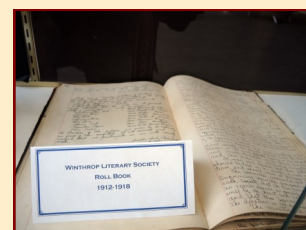
Thanks, or thanksgiving, are often missing, in our everyday interactions. I don't mean that we Southerners aren't polite—Heaven forbid. We are among the politest people on earth. But true thanks are often missing. As Rogero says, "Who him, although unknown, had sought to right, at risk of life, and prays his name to teach that he may know whom his thanks is owed."

Let me simply say that we at Dacus Library know to whom our thanks is due, and it is to each of you who help Winthrop in any way. I don't mean simply Dacus, but for whatever part of Winthrop you support, herewith our thanks in surfeit. I say this, because when you help the part, you help the whole, and any part of Winthrop touches all of us who work here. We are not rival contenders, but a team of players, if you will, players who have various positions, all of whom work together.

Our thanks are owed to you, all of you. We wish you a blessed Thanksgiving, and a joyous and meaningful holiday season.



Dean Mark Y. Herring



### RECENT ARCHIVAL HISTORICAL EXHIBITS:

From Top:

Literary Society Roll, 1912- 19;

WU Presidential China, ca. 1920s;

Literary Society Cup, 1914-19;



## SIGOURNEY WOODFORK, WINTHROP GRADUATE, WINS ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP

**Sigourney Woodfork**, a 2013 recipient of a Bachelor's in Integrated Marketing Communication from Winthrop University, has been selected a Rotary Foundation Global Grants Scholar by Rotary International. The scholarship amount US \$30,000 will help defray costs of Miss Woodfork's pursuit of a Master of Arts in Global Communications at the American University of Paris (AUP), France, in 2015.



Dr. **Ronnie Faulkner**, secretary of the Rock Hill club and secretary-treasurer of the Friends of Dacus Library, arranged for Sigourney to be sponsored by the Rotary Club of Rock Hill. Interestingly, the founding president of the Rock Hill Club was David Bancroft Johnson, the first president of Winthrop.

Dr. Faulkner will act as the international contact for Miss Woodfork in her year of study abroad. Alain Bechade, of the Rotary Club of Paris, will be her host contact while she attends AUP.

Rotary, a service organization founded in Chicago in 1905, has over 1.2 million members worldwide. The not-for-profit Rotary Foundation was started in 1917 and has traditionally been the world's largest non-governmental funder of international scholarships.

## FRIENDS OF DACUS ACTIVE / LIFE MEM- BERSHIPS FOR 2015:

**If your name is not listed below, your membership is inactive for 2015. You may re-new for the coming year by using and mailing the attached form. Please consider designating your gift for the Friends of Dacus Library Endowed Fund, which has an initial goal of \$100,000.**

**Ashley H. Barron  
Rick and Kay Carlisle (LIFE)  
G. Byrnes & Alice B. Coleman  
(LIFE)**

**Caroline B. Cooney (LIFE)  
Nancy Cornwell-Daves (LIFE)  
Dr. Kelly and Beth Costner  
Harry M. and Becca Dalton  
Ian and Nancy Davidson  
Dr. Luckett Davis  
Dr. Ronnie W. Faulkner  
Edmund J. and Pat FitzGerald  
Janet Gray and Russell E. Luke  
(LIFE)**

**Dr. Mark Y. and Carol Herring  
Clarence and Lynn Hornsby  
Rick and Kim Lee (LIFE)  
Simms M. and Doris Leitner  
Ray and Sherron Marshall  
Antje Mays  
Joann Woods McMaster  
Randy and Kay McSpadden (LIFE)  
Paul and Cindy Nigro (LIFE)  
Louise Pettus (LIFE)  
Joyce Plyler & Mark Horoschak  
(LIFE)**

**Dr. Marilyn S. and Roger Sarow  
Dr. Spiro J. Shetuni  
Baxter G. and Joyce Simpson  
Dr. Jack W. Weaver (LIFE)  
Ruth K. Webb (LIFE)  
Dr. Jane and Bill White (LIFE)  
Gale Teaster & Henry Woods  
Dr. Jack Weaver (LIFE)**

## RUDY MANCKE TO SPEAK AT WINTHROP

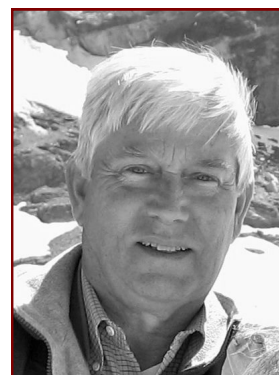
Well-known naturalist **Rudy Mancke** will speak under the auspices of the Friends of Dacus Library in the Spring of 2015. The exact date is being finalized.

Born in Spartanburg, S.C., Rudy spent his childhood roaming the woods and meadows of the Piedmont and studying nature.

Rudy's education at Wofford College and graduate study at the University of South Carolina broadened his interest in natural history, an enthusiasm that he tried to give to his students at Spartanburg High School and later to the public while a Curator of Natural History at the S. C. State Museum.

Rudy's work at the museum brought him into contact with producers at South Carolina ETV and led to the television series *NatureScene* (1978-2002) that is still being aired on public television.

Rudy retired at the end of 2008, but still teaches ENVR J200 - Natural History of South Carolina at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.





# Friends of Dacus Library



Supporting Winthrop's scholarly community since 1996: <http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus/friends>

**WINTHROP UNIVERSITY**

## A Note from the Chair

**Dacus Library**  
824 Oakland Avenue  
Rock Hill, SC 29733

**Phone: 803/323-2131**  
**Fax: 803/323-2215**  
**[www.winthrop.edu/dacus/friends](http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus/friends)**



**Dr. Jane J. White**

**Board Members**  
**Effective Jan. 1, 2014:**

Joye Berman  
Alice B. Coleman  
Ronnie Faulkner  
Janet Gray (Vice Chair)  
Doris Leitner  
Kay McSpadden  
Cindy Nigro  
Paul Nigro  
Joyce Plyler  
Ruth K. Webb  
Jane J. White (Chair)

## Reading Makes a Difference....

At the beginning of the summer, I heard my husband and older son talk about how they had moved from their favorite genres, murder mysteries and science fiction, to *World Without End* by Ken Follett. Since I (rather scornfully) had assumed that they spent most evenings watching the *Tour de France*, basketball, hockey, baseball, and football, or engaged in War of the World computer games, I was surprised and impressed. Of course, I immediately ordered this book on my Kindle and did not emerge for a week—dog food stocks ran low, clothes were not washed, questions were not answered—as I immersed myself in the rich and powerful world of fourteenth century England. *World Without End* is the second book in a series about the priory town of Canterbury, in which the splendid cathedral begins to collapse, the bridge across the river does collapse (preventing wool sales to Italians at the annual fair), and the plague arrives.

This adventurous novel about what the daily life of the period was like swept me along. In addition to enjoying the superlative characters, one also begins to ask bigger questions, such as “What happens to a feudal system and the lords that depend upon it when confronted with the death of so many workers?” There were fundamental questions about the freedom of men or women, or their alleged ownership by the land. These questions gave me quite a different view of the meaning of civil rights. I briefly wondered if I owned my house or if my house owned me. This was a long, juicy, horrifying because-of-unceasing-hard-times novel.

This past summer also turned out to be more tumultuous than expected for me.

Being able to re-read things and use words and ideas I had learned before was helpful and soothing. I revisited the poems of Richard Tillinghast, who spoke at Winthrop in March. I used his poem “The Table” as a metaphor for the life of my father-in law, reading it at the latter’s memorial service in July. Poetry comforted me and focused my admiration for the rigor and ultimate generosity of my husband’s father.

*Friends Beyond Borders: Cultural Variations in Close Friendship* by Robert Baumgarte, who spoke on campus in April, also helped me become aware that there are cultural differences about life and death, celebrating and mourning. I was surprised by the non-southern lack of preparation of casseroles, soups and cakes for the widow of my father-in-law. Nevertheless, whenever I was perplexed, impressed or slightly angered by an action or comment as we plowed through the distributing of items from the trust, I could fall back on Baumgarte’s descriptions of people who had a need for intimacy vs. people who were aloof from those they did not know well, i.e., the idealists vs. the realists. I was glad to remember, so that I could cope with the cultural values of several diverse, large families. It enabled me to accept behaviors and attitudes I thought culturally strange and somewhat off-putting.

Readers need libraries. Libraries are where readers connect with books and now with a plethora of materials in other formats as well. So, my Friends, read, absorb, and above all support the library. In the end, it may just make all the difference in the world.

Best wishes,

*Jane J. White*

Chair of Friends of Dacus

## Membership Application : The Friends of Dacus Library (Mail to address in box below)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone No. (if different than home no.): \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Winthrop (check one):  
\_\_\_\_\_ Alumni \_\_\_\_\_ Faculty/Staff \_\_\_\_\_ Friend \_\_\_\_\_ Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Student

Amount of Gift: \_\_\_\_\_ If you would like your gift to go to the Friends of Dacus Library Endowed Fund (Check): \_\_\_\_\_

Levels:	Life (Individuals Only)	\$1,000.00+	Your contribution receipt will provide specific information about any benefit that would affect your tax deductible gift.
	Corporate (Businesses/Organizations Only)	\$500-\$999.99	
	Patron	\$200-\$499.99	
	Sustaining Member	\$100-\$199.99	
	Member	\$50-\$99.99	
	Winthrop Student	\$10-\$49.99	

If you wish to make a gift \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of, or \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of someone, please indicate whom:

Name/address of person to be notified about honor/memorial in box below:

**Make check payable to:**

**Winthrop University Foundation**

**Mail to:**

**Winthrop University Foundation  
302 Tillman Hall  
Rock Hill, SC 29733**

**In memo line of check write:  
Friends of Dacus Library**